

Nowhere, is the answer. As the domestic industry reeled under the unrelenting wave of cheap, imported lamb, the importers have been busy breaking records. Month after month in 1998, the imports flooded the domestic market, shattering records. When it ended, a record-making 70.2 million pounds of imported lamb had saturated the American market. But the importers are not finished yet. Even as the ITC conducted hearings, the level of imports were rising—in the first three months of 1999 alone, imports are up nine percent over 1998 levels, and an astonishing 34 percent above 1997 levels. If this pace keeps up, the record-making import levels of 1998 will be shattered, as will domestic sheep industry.

I urge the President to curb this devastating surge of cheap imports. The domestic industry won a fairly fought legal case governed by laws embedded in this nation's trade treaties. To do anything less than ordering strong, effective trade restrictions would signal to industries in the United States and abroad that our laws will not be enforced.

As I said before, the case now lies before the President. I urge him to act on the unanimous recommendation by the International Trade Commission for four full years of trade restrictions. This follows ITC's unanimous conclusion that the domestic lamb industry is seriously threatened by the deluge of imports that has swamped the U.S. marketplace and now absorbs one-third of all American lamb consumption.

The six Commissioners were unanimous in their recommendation for trade restriction, but offered three options on how it should be applied. The ITC's options range from a straight quota to a straight tariff to a tariff-rate quota.

The importers have already identified the one ITC recommendation which would do nothing to stop their already disastrous effect on the marketplace. A report of an interview with Australian Trade Minister Tim Fischer identified the ITC's tariff-rate quota as likely to have "minimal effect on present Australian exports."

Minimal effect. Esteemed colleagues, we did not create the 201 provision in our trade laws to have "minimal effect." We did not create a provision that is tougher to prove than dumping, than unfair trading. We created the 201 provision as a just way for a domestic industry that has been injured or threatened by imports to turn to its government for help.

The ITC offered three recommendations. The U.S. lamb industry has studied those recommendations and found the "common ground" among them.

The industry needs strong, effective relief. Here is what they are asking for:

A two-tier, four year tariff rate quota program with tariffs both below and above a set level of imports. In year one, tariffs would be 22 percent on lamb meat imports up to 52 million pounds, with a 42 percent tariff on imported

lamb beyond the 52 million pound mark.

Year two calls for a 20 percent tariff up to 56 million pounds, and a 37.5 percent tariff above the 56 million.

Year three involves a 15 percent tariff up to 61 million pounds and a 30 percent tariff above the 61 million pounds.

Year four, the final year, calls for a 10 percent below-quota tariff up to 70 million pounds and an above quota tariff 20 percent above the 70 million pounds.

I join my colleagues in urging the President to order this request into action. It provides desperately needed, strong, effective relief to both curb this unprecedented, record-breaking, surge of imports and the devastating price undercutting that accompanies it.

This case is important for this nation's agriculture community. It's being watched throughout our rural towns, farms and ranches. If the President does not implement an effective remedy for the lamb industry, which has followed our laws and proved its case, an unmistakable signal would be sent to agriculture and rural interests throughout the United States.●

YOUNG MARINES

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, in the aftermath of the tragedy at Columbine High School, and in the midst of our debate on Juvenile Justice issues, I am proud to offer tribute to the youth group known as the Young Marines. The Young Marines is the official youth program of the Marine Corps League and the focal point for the Marine Corps Youth drug demand reduction effort. Its mission is to promote the mental, moral, and physical development of young Americans. All of its activities emphasize the importance of honesty, courage, respect, loyalty, dependability, and a sense of devotion to God, community, and family.

After World War II, members of the Marine Corps League discussed the possibility of establishing a Marine Corps League Youth program as a civic project for detachments and to create interest in the League. For historical purposes, the birth of the Young Marines was in Waterbury, Connecticut in 1958. The official charter was issued on 17 October 1965 and thereafter the program spread throughout the country.

In this age where the youth of America has been labeled as troubled or misguided, their detractors fail to notice that there are groups and organizations which do take the time to participate in the lives of our youth, to guide them in a world that is full of distractions, and of glorified violence. It makes me very proud to be able to identify an organization whose goals are to promote the mental, moral, and physical development of its members, to instill in its members the ideals of honesty, fairness, courage, to stimulate an interest in, and respect for, academic achievement and the history and traditions of the United States of

America. The Young Marines work to promote physical fitness through the conduct of physical activities, including participation in athletic events and close order drill. Any maybe what is most important, the Young Marines stress a drug-free lifestyle through a continual drug prevention education program.

Much has been said about the troubles of today's youth, and recent events have illustrated what can happen when teens consider themselves outsiders or without purpose or guidance. I think it's time that we give the recognition and respect to the groups and the youth who do participate in these groups, that which they deserve. I believe that the guidance that groups such as the Young Marines provide is more effective than any legislation can possibly be. And maybe we can start producing real role models that teens can relate to, instead of offering them the glorification of violence and drug use which is so prevalent in the movies and on television. I welcome the opportunity to extend my support to the young people of New Mexico who are participants in this vital program. I firmly believe the experience as Young Marines will greatly contribute to their future success.●

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN T. SMYTHE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to join the Chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator PETE DOMENICI, in recognizing Mr. Austin Smythe's service to the United States Senate. At the end of this week, Austin will join the private sector after 15 years as a key staff member of the Senate Budget Committee.

As a member of the Senate Budget Committee over the past 5 years, my staff and I have had the pleasure of working with Austin on a variety of budget-related issues. He has been extremely helpful to this Senator, offering his invaluable advice and expertise in the drafting of several bills and amendments that I have sponsored or cosponsored, most recently the Mandates Information Act and the Social Security Preservation and Debt Reduction Act. As Senator DOMENICI said in his statement, Austin is "a Senator's dream staffer"—extremely knowledgeable, hard-working, dedicated, and able to distill complex topics in terms even Senators can understand.

We will miss Austin Smythe's contribution to the U.S. Senate and to the Nation and wish him success in his new endeavors.●

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1999

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 17, H.R. 435.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.